

REMARKS

After entry of the foregoing claim amendments, claims 1-32 will be pending. Claims 1-11 and 15-25 have been allowed. Claims 27 and 28 have been objected to and claims 26 and 29-32 have been rejected. Claims 1-3, 5-12, 15-17, 19-30, and 32 have been amended. No claims have been cancelled. Support for the claim amendments may be found throughout the specification and figures and, for example, at paragraphs [0153]-[0158]. No new matter has been added.

Claims 26 and 29-32 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 6,504,820 (“Oliva”).

Independent claim 26 recites a method for alleviating head-of-line blocking in a switch that includes an input module. The input module includes virtual output queues and virtual path queues. A head-of-line cell of one of the virtual output queues is provided to one of the virtual path queues using dynamic path identifier information.

Independent claim 29 recites an input module comprising virtual output queues that accept cells and virtual path queues that accept head-of-line cells. Each of the virtual path queues accepts a head-of-line cell from a virtual output queue based on dynamic path identifier information.

In Oliva, a head-of-line cell is not accepted by or provided to a virtual path queue based on dynamic path identifier information. Rather, in Oliva, virtual output queues provide cells to virtual paths using static path information (*see* Col. 6, ll. 32-65). The virtual output queues have a weight associated therewith (*see* Col. 6, ll. 32-34). The weight is calculated as a function of static values associated with traffic descriptors (*see* Col. 6, ll. 32-65). The cells are provided to the virtual path based on the weight (*see* Col. 6, ll. 60-62).

Thus, Oliva does not disclose, teach, or suggest a virtual path queue accepting or being provided with a head-of-line cell based on dynamic path identifier information. Rather, in Oliva, each cell is placed in a virtual output path based on static weights. Thus, the cell is not accepted or provided based on dynamic information.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 26 and 29 patentably defines over the teachings of Oliva. As 30-32 depend from claim 29, Applicant further respectfully submits that claims 30-32 patentably define over the

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teachings of Oliva. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 26 and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Oliva.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are allowable and that the present application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application and an early Notice of Allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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